

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-13

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DRAFTED BY EA:MR HABIB:CHG

APPROVED BY EA - MR HABIB

EA - MR HUMMEL

EA/K - MR FORBES

S/S - MR. WOODS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192529

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS, JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN-ROK DIFFICULTIES

REF: (A) TOKYO 11329; (B) STATE 192471; (C) SEOUL 5739

1. DEPT APPRECIATES CAREFUL ANALYSIS REFTEL (A). WITH REGARD TO PARA 5, YOU CAN REST AT EASE THAT WE WILL NOT GRATIFY KOREAN DESIRES BY REPORTING BACK TO THEM WHAT WE HAVE SAID TO JAPANESE. YOU WILL NOTE IN REFTEL (B) SEOUL WAS ADVISED THAT TALK WITH YASUKAWA WAS FYI AND HAS NOT INFORMED ROKG. IT SHOULD REMAIN THAT WAY. WE DO NOT WISH KOREANS TO BECOME MORE DIFFICULT ON ASSUMPTION THAT U.S. IS LEANING ON THE JAPANESE. ON THE SAME SCORE, WHILE WE OF COURSE ARE COUNSELING RESTRAINT ON THE ROK, WE SHOULD NOT LET JAPANESE GET THE IMPRESSION THAT WE CAN OR WILL DIRECT KOREAN SOLUTION OF THEIR DIFFICULTIES WITH JAPAN.

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2. AT THIS POINT WE HAVE DONE WHAT IS NECESSARY ON BOTH SIDES. THEY KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH EACH OTHER AND THEY KNOW HOW TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO STICKY PROBLEMS. WE SHOULD BE ALERT HOWEVER THAT NEITHER OF THEM TAKE ABRUPT ACTIONS WHICH CAN ONLY MAKE THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION MORE DIFFICULT, E.G., ROK BREAKING RELATIONS. THE RESTRAINT AND PATIENCE WHICH IS MENTIONED IN PARA 6 REFTTEL (A) IS SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO APPLY ON BOTH SIDES.

3. SEOUL SHOULD CONTINUE TO RESPOND TO FOREIGN MINISTER'S APPEAL FOR US TO PERSUADE JAPANESE TO ACCEPT KOREAN DEMANDS IN COURSE FORTHCOMING HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS BY REPLYING THAT REQUEST HAS BEEN FORWARDED.

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